Letters to the editor
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Dallas FBI Agent in Charge Oliver "Buck" Revell's belated August 27 "More Un-Founded Theories About Lee Harvey Oswald" criticism of the August 7 "The Fourth Tramp" Outlook article by Ray and Mary La Fontaine includes some but not all of what I told Outlook about that newest of the JFK assassination mythologies in a letter I wrote it the day that article appeared and then within a few days in a lengthy, detailed and documented commentary and analysis receipt of which it has not ~~yet~~ acknowledged.

While Revell's criticism, perhaps assisted by his office's assassination historian, Farris Rookstool III, who is well aware of my writing, is justified, in his quiet boasting about his and his FBI's investigatory derring-do he is throwing stones from inside a glass house.

Revell takes credit for the exposure of the assassination irrelevance of those so-called "tramp" pictures after he became Dallas SAC in May 1991. In fact, I forced that FBI exposure beginning May 3, 1968, by putting the FBI in the position of having to order Dallas to investigate a then new assassination mythology. Dallas then failed to do what it was asked to do, learn the "identity" of those tramps. Instead it contented itself with proving there was no JFK assassination connection. If Revell's Dallas office had not failed to do what it was asked to do in 1968 all the mythologies attributed to that pictures would not since then have plagued our history. As Revell himself says, all the FBI had to do in 1968 was ask the Dallas police for their names. From its own (enclosed) report it did not. Insert 1A

Revell also says that "as a Marine officer, I was assigned to assist the FBI while it was conducting a detailed inquiry into Lee Harvey Oswald's military background."

With Revell's assistance the FBI did not discover and report what I first brought to light in 1967 and his assistant Rookstool knows, that as a Marine Oswald had CRYPTO and TOP SECRET security clearances. The FBI has yet to acknowledge that even though the Warren Commission testimony that I brought to light in 1965 told it that Oswald's clearances had to be "at least SECRET."

If Rael Revell's Dallas FBI office had done what was asked of it in 1968, all the ~~both~~ at once exciting and confusing ~~Team~~ "tramp" mythologies, from Garrison to that of the La Fontaines, would not have existed and the country would have been saved that plague at least.

While the proof of these high Oswald security clearances does not exist in ~~Oswald's~~ his Navy personnel records, it does exist in other Navy records that not needing the FBI's generous tax-payer funding I got from the Navy under date of July 14, 1977 for $9.65.

That it remains officially unacknowledged that the only official candidate for Presidential assassin was so trusted in the marines ~~that~~ he had these exceptionally high security clearances is far from the only national scandal for which the FBI is responsible. A Revell's office in particular.

The new President directed the FBI to make and report on an exhaustive and definitive investigation of the assassination. ~~That~~ The FBI neither did nor ever intended doing that. Instead, as I document fully with records I obtained through a dozen FOIA lawsuits mostly against the FBI in my coming book, NEVER AGAIN! (publication of which is now scheduled for March, 1999), Director Hoover ordained the exact opposite the evening of the day of the assassination and nobody in the FBI or elsewhere in the government dared do what Hoover did not want done. It made a large pretense but it never actually investigated the crime itself.

When he was interviewed by William Manchester on June 4,1964, Hoover stated, in the words of his note-taker, Cartha ~~DeLoach~~ Loach, that in "the President's call at 7:25 p.m. he gave specific instructions that the FBI do everything possible to thoroughly investigate this case." (FBI File 62-109060 Not Recorded, copy on request, 8 pp.)

But Hoover did not await ~~that~~ Johnson's phone call:"The Director told Manchester that the FBI immediately entered the case despite non-jurisdiction." (Emphasis added) This is to say illegally, and to be able to control the case, which is what the FBI did beginning then.

Hoover also made it clear to Manchester that he knew immediately, before going "all out" in response to Johnson's directive, that Oswald was the ~~no~~ lone assassin.

This certainty, without any investigation, so permeated the FBI that as Revell will find in his own Dallas Files (89-43-483 sub 518) when Dallas Eastman Kodak showed two of the then Dallas agents amateur ~~movies~~ pictures of the President actually being killed ("did depict the President's car at the precise time shots were fired"), those agents not only declined free copies of those ~~movies,~~ pictures it did not even notify Headquarters of their existence.

and they remained a secret until I forced their disgorging in C.A. 78-0322.) 3rd here

As I wrote and the Post published during the controversy about the Oliver Stone movie, JFK, I am "the lonely man in the middle" with conspiracy theories on one side of me and non-conspiracies theories on the other side.

In deploring "More Unfounded Theories About Lee Harvey Oswald" Revell fails to acknowledge the fact that the very first theory, of Oswald as the lone assassin, was made up by his own FBI before it made what it calls an investigation, which it never was.

That "all out" report the FBI prepared at the new President's order is no more than a four-volume diatribe against Oswald. (All five are "CD1" in the Commission's files.) (Its fifth volume is on Jack Ruby.) The FBI's own index of it makes this clear and that it was labelling him "red" despite his clear record I have from the FBI's own files that he was strongly anti-Communist and daring of foolhardy enough to be that within the USSR.

While this report oozes with such political poison, it does not, unbelievable as it may seem, even account for all the shots that were fired in the crime and in all those pages it does not even give the cause of death!

In all four volumes the FBI has but two sentences on the shooting. I reproduced them in facsimile in my first book (Whitewash: The Report on the Warren Report, p. 194) Prior to publication I took copies of those pages to Al Friendly and Ben Bradlee in April of 1966. They professed excitement and seemed to be impressed but the Post did not publish it.

With the passing of more than 30 years, with Hoover gone to his reward and no longer able to banish special agents to Butte, it is past time for the FBI, among others and on all sides of this lingering contriversy, to start to try to be honest first with themselves ans then with the people.

In the most important job it ever had the FBI failed and it failed because it was its own director's decision to wipe the case out by making the safely-dead Oswald the lone assassin before anything like an investigation could have been or was made.

By its leaking of the first of those five volumes the FBI boxed the Warren Commission in. It dared not confront Hoover, knowing full well that nobody ever did and survived that politically. As it confessed in its emergency executive session of January 22,1964,

The reason for not accepting free copies of clear Leica pictures of the President being killed is they could "not be used for identification purpose." That is, they did not show Oswald with a smoking gun. They could be used for identifying at least 50 witnesses to the assassination.

Similarly, when a nearby police department phoned the Dallas FBI the afternoon of the assassination, before that office had Oswald's name, and suggested that the FBI consider a man who, along with the groups of which he was part, had often threatened the President, the FBI supervisor wrote on this lead sheet - which also was not sent to Headquarters - "Not necessary to cover as true subject located." (89-43-84)

who are quite clear in them.

They also had the great importance in any real investigation of clearly showing the positions and the attitudes of the bodies of all in the Presidential limousine at precise and identifiable instants during the assassination.

another TOP SECRET Secret

that I also rescued from oblivion via FOIA, the Commission understood, in the words of its general counsel, J. Lee Rankin, "They would like to have us fold up and quit." Commission Member Hale Boggs then interjected, "This closes the case, you see, don't you?"

Commissioner and former CIA director Allen Dulles acknowledged, "Yes, I see that."

Rankin then wrapped it up in these words, "They found the man. There is nothing for us to do. The Commission supports their conclusion, and we can go home and that is the end of it."

Although the Commission had decided that it would preserve a stenographic transcipt of all its secret sessions for posterity, that one, on Dulles' motion, they decided to destroy it. (Post Mortem, pages 475ff)

The stenotypist's tape was overlooked.

I compelled its transcription and disclosure to me. Months before I published it in facsimile, I gave copies to the press. Bill Claiborne of the Post did write a story about it and since then it has all been forgotten.

With the passing of more than 30 years, with Hoover long gone to his reward and no longer able to banish his agents to Butte, with more than enough blame to go around on all sides of this lingering controversy that is so painful to so many people and remains such a cause for disenchantment with the government, it is well past the time for the beginning of an effort to be honest, with themselves for the parties involved and with the people for all parties.

While critivism of the mythologizers like the LaFontaines is more than justified, and I beat Revell to that and did it in much more detail, Revell and his FBI have earned more criticism than all other official agencies combined. From its relatively minor failure to learn who those irrelevant tramps were and instead boasting that he exposed that fiction 25 years after I compelled that, to never investigating the crime itself, as among thousands of illustrations in its refusal to accept free pictures of the President being killed, Revell's office, as the "office of origin" the office in immediate charge of the investigation, failed more than all others outside of FBI headquarters.

When he criticizes others for their failures, which he is entitled to do, he does

not do that with clean hands without full and public admissions of his own and h is office's failures.

~~That~~ The La Fontaine fiction from overactive imaginations that typify the minds and approaches of those ~~those~~ who theorize assassination conspiracies without proving them, is to be a book, Oswald Talked, This says all that need be said about the greed of publishers overcoming their common sense and the responsibilities of those who undertake to give the people what they claim is not fiction, what they represent is the truth about this most terrible of crimes and its investigations.

Also typical of this dominating greed is the current paperback republication of what I described as the most intendedly dishonest of all the assassination works of sycophancy, Gerald Posner's knowingly mistitled Case Closed.

More than four months before this reprint appeared in my Case Open, which has yet to be mentioned by or reviewed in the papers, including the Post, I refer to Posner, using his own publisher's, Random House's, definitions of the words, as a "shyster," as a "plagiarizer," as a determined "liar" who has "~~who has~~ trouble telling the truth even by accident" and with many other of the most serious and forthright criticisms, all documented. To this day he has not voiced any complaint or denial and, given the opportunity, indeed, the need in a lawsuit against it ~~when~~ where my book was the basis of an affidavit, Random House remains mute.

That this happens in our country disgraces us all.

It is, I believe, well past the time for all exploitations and commercializations of all sides to end, for some concern for honesty to manifest itself so that we can recover some of the self-respect we all lost and begin to examine the failures so that, the reason for the title of my long-delayed book, in this country it can happen NEVER AGAIN!

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